

The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives more complete and detailed interpretation of national, industrial, legislative and international news, and contains other information of interest to the trade union movement.

# WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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WHOLE NO. 1787

WILLIAM GREEN, President

WASHINGTON, D. C., TUESDAY, JULY 10, 1945

GEORGE NEALY, Secretary-Treasurer

VOL. 35, NO. 28

## LABOR, USA

Washington, D. C.—In its first "Labor, USA" broadcast over the ABC network, the American Federation of Labor presented feature articles by five of its staff experts to supplement the news. These articles follow:

### New Faces in Washington

By ROBERT J. WATT,

International Representative of the AFL

New personalities, who already have shown a disposition to wield new powers, have taken over key labor positions in the Federal Truman's administration.

First, from Seattle, came Lewis H. Schwellenbach, President Truman's appointee as Secretary of Labor.

Both of these officials will have their work cut out for them. Secretary of Labor Schwellenbach, in my opinion, got started on the right foot. Immediately after being sworn in, he announced plans to reorganize the Labor Department. He intended to gather together all the scattered Federal agencies dealing with labor matters and centralize them within the Labor Department. Likewise, he promised to seek the advice of organized labor in carrying out the job. This is an urgently necessary step.

Even more important, however, is the wage problem. I expect Secretary Schwellenbach to be helpful in the job of reorganizing wage policies to meet conditions brought on by the end of the war in Europe and the beginning of reconversion. I hope he will also advise the President and the Labor Department. I hope he will also advise the President and the Labor Department. I hope he will also advise the President and the Labor Department.

NLRB Chairman Herzog also inherits many difficult problems. His past experience as a member of the New York State Labor Relations Board taught him that it is possible to administer such an agency without becoming involved in disputes between rival labor organizations. I hope he will apply this to his new job as the nation's police officer. He found so successful in New York.

To both Secretary Schwellenbach and Chairman Herzog, the American Federation of Labor pledges real cooperation.

### Your Postwar Job

By BORIS SHISHKIN,

AFL Economist

Thousands of Americans are now looking for new jobs. It won't be long before millions of workers will be looking for the same thing. This isn't their fault. They are not just jumping around for a better break. They are unemployed or will be because of the war. Recovery means a rush toward the pace of reconversion.

How serious is the reconversion unemployment picture going to get? The American Federation of Labor is making a careful study in order to help disemployed workers and discharged veterans find new jobs as quickly as possible. We have undertaken a nation-wide job survey with the help of our affiliated unions and will report the facts to you, beginning today.

Our first report is encouraging. It comes from the study of organized labor and the patternmakers' trade. That's what George Lynch, President of the Patternmakers' League of North America tells us. The relatively small membership of this union make the original models of all kinds of machines. Recovery means a rush toward the pace of reconversion.

Next time we shall look for skilled patternmakers. That's what George Lynch, President of the Patternmakers' League of North America tells us. The relatively small membership of this union make the original models of all kinds of machines. Recovery means a rush toward the pace of reconversion.

However, the International Union of Operating Engineers reports that it will soon have plenty of jobs available on new roads for which the States were already appropriating large sums. Such projects also will provide many jobs for laborers with lesser skills.

Next week I will report to you on employment prospects in the clothing and textile industries.

### Health Insurance

By NELSON CRUIKSHANK,  
Social Security Director for AFL

America's best national defense in time of peace is health insurance. Just think of it! The Selective Service System was forced to recruit four million American boys of military age during the war. No wonder that legislators and executives of the AFL testified before the House Postwar Committee that a national health program would be of greater benefit to our country in the future than any other program.

A practical system of national health insurance is proposed in the Wagner-Murray-Dingell Bill. It would provide for the payment of health care for all Americans who are healthy at all of his life. But it does provide insurance against the costs of illness. It would pay for the treatment of illness. It would pay for the treatment of illness. It would pay for the treatment of illness.

However, the Wagner-Murray-Dingell bill does not mean State medicine. It does not force a patient to pay before the Government does. It does not compel doctors to take any patient the Government sends along. On the contrary, it provides for a free system, wholly in accord with American traditions.

Make no mistake about it, this legislation faces long delays and fierce opposition before it is adopted. Senator Wagner told me public hearings will not begin before September. But the American Federation of Labor will not be deterred by opposition. We will continue to work for the passage of this bill. We will continue to work for the passage of this bill. We will continue to work for the passage of this bill.

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## SAY, LISTEN!

For the rest of this year, the AFL presents each Saturday evening at 6:45 P.M. EDT, over the nationwide network of the American Broadcasting Company a radio news-magazine, featuring the latest news at home and abroad and special reports by expert commentators on important labor problems. This program is listed in the radio columns of your newspaper as "Labor-U.S.A." Our own subtitle for the program is "The American Federationist of the Air." Don't miss these bright, new broadcasts! Listen every Saturday night!

### AFL INSURANCE AGENTS

### MORE RUBBER WORKERS

TRIUMPH IN TEXAS

SWITCH BACK TO AFL

Houston, Tex.—The Texas organization of the Industrial and Oil Workers' Insurance Union, which was started off with a bang here when the AFL unit won by the overwhelming margin of 75 to 1 in the election, has now been re-elected to the AFL. The AFL unit won by the overwhelming margin of 75 to 1 in the election, has now been re-elected to the AFL. The AFL unit won by the overwhelming margin of 75 to 1 in the election, has now been re-elected to the AFL.

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## Liberalized Jobless Benefits provided in Long-Delayed Doughton Measure

Washington, D. C.—After long and unproductive delay, Chairman Robert H. Doughton of the House Ways and Means Committee finally introduced by request the Administration's bill to liberalize unemployment compensation benefits during the reconversion period.

A similar measure is expected to be placed before the Senate soon by Senator Klug of West Virginia. The measure would provide for a special session of Congress calling for such action to meet the emergency caused by cutbacks and increasing unemployment. But the law makers have stalled almost to the point of defeat for the measure.

Rep. Doughton said his committee will decide whether to give prior consideration to the unemployment compensation bill or to another bill. At any event, he said he little hope of the cost and suit output for the nation as a whole in September.

In contrast to the lack of enthusiasm displayed by Congressional leaders toward President Truman's demand for meeting human needs during reconversion was the speed with which they have passed measure of legislation giving corporations tax credits to solve the unemployment headaches of big business.

The Doughton bill provides for the federal government to supplement the inadequate unemployment benefits now paid under state laws through agreements with the states. The agreement would underwrite the following national-wide standards:

1.—Increasing maximum unemployment benefits for unemployed workers to an upper limit of \$15 a week. The new law states as much as \$15 a week.

2.—Extending the duration of such benefits to as many as 26 weeks in any year. In some states benefits are now permitted for only six or eight weeks.

3.—Granting to federal government and maritime employees the same state unemployment benefits as are accorded to other workers. At present such employees are not covered by state laws.

## Hopkins Named Impartial Arbitrator of Ladies' Garment Industries

New York City—Harry L. Hopkins has accepted the post of Impartial Chairman of the New York Women's Coat and Suit Industry, David Dubinsky, President of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, announced.

As Impartial Chairman, Mr. Hopkins will preside over collective agreements embracing 50,000 employees and 1,200 employers with an annual production output valued at \$500,000,000, comprising eighty percent of the coat and suit output for the nation as a whole.

The collective agreements in the coat and suit industry were formed back in 1910 when, in an effort to avert future strife, following a long bitter strike, an arbitration of the settlement of labor-management differences was established under a "protocol of peace," in the preparation of which the late Justice Brandeis had a primary part. In 1954, during a study of industrial relations in the trade, the committee was appointed by Gov. Governor Smith and headed by Herbert H. Lehman, the post of permanent Impartial Chairman was created with Raymond V. Ingersoll, long a constructive figure in public affairs, as the first incumbent. Mr. Ingersoll served for seven years.

He was succeeded by George W. Alger, who was followed after 5 years by Col. Sol. Rosenblatt. Former Mayor James J. Walker was named to the post in 1940 and occupied it until June 30.

Mr. Dubinsky expressed great gratification over Mr. Hopkins' acceptance of the post in a joint statement representing all parties in the industry. He said:

"It is a source of utmost satisfaction to us that Mr. Hopkins has accepted our earnest request that he accept the impartial chairmanship of the New York Coat and Suit Industry. His vast experience and honest vision will have a great constructive meaning to all factors in our industry."

"He will unquestionably perpetuate the industry's tradition of progress in sound and equitable labor-employer dealing in which our industry has enacted a pioneer's role."

## Labor's Great Decade of Progress

Highlights NLRB's Annual Report

Washington, D. C.—Organized labor's great progress during the past decade was spotlighted by the National Labor Relations Board in a report made public on its tenth anniversary. On that day, too, Chairman Harry A. Miller retired, and Paul M. Harbo, former head of the New York State Labor Relations Board, took over the reins. He was appointed by President Truman several weeks ago, after Miller's resignation.

The board's summary showed that had it not been for the war, the number of strikes would have been 1,400, more than 1,400. The board's summary showed that had it not been for the war, the number of strikes would have been 1,400, more than 1,400. The board's summary showed that had it not been for the war, the number of strikes would have been 1,400, more than 1,400.

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## Bans AFL from Due to Labor Crisis

### MEMO FOR ACTION!

Washington, D. C.—In a series of letters to officers of affiliated unions, AFL President William Green made these earnest recommendations:

1.—That they make personal calls to their Senators and Representatives during the summer recess of Congress to urge them to support the Wagner-Murray-Dingell social security amendments.

2.—That national and international unions instruct their locals to affiliate at once with central labor councils in their communities in compliance with the mandate of the last AFL convention.

3.—That officers of directly affiliated local AFL unions likewise join their central labor councils without delay.

The council announced that the pay scale will be the first step in the improvements which it will seek to accomplish. It will be the first step in the improvements which it will seek to accomplish. It will be the first step in the improvements which it will seek to accomplish.

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Thru Payroll Savings

### Executive Council To Act in Emergent Situation, Green Announces

Washington, D. C.—The American Federation of Labor has been denied permission to hold its sixty-fifth annual convention in Chicago, President William Green announced.

That the AFL was released a convention. Green made the clear in a letter to the officers of affiliated unions that the AFL, in order to help promote the war effort, will not contest the government's decision.

The official has on any conventions requiring the attendance of more than fifty delegates was invoked by the War Relocation Authority of the Office of Defense Transportation in turning down the AFL's application for permission to hold its regular annual meeting.

The AFL convention had been scheduled to open in Chicago next October with an expected attendance of about 500 delegates.

Since the AFL's annual conventions make the federation's laws, decide its policies and elect officers, many difficult problems will arise because of the omission of the convention this year.

Mr. Green said that the Executive Council, which is the governing body of the AFL, will meet in Chicago next month to take the necessary steps to procedure to meet the emergency situation.

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## Postal Workers Get Good Pay Boost, Their First in Twenty-Five Years

Washington, D. C.—Postal workers got their first basic pay increase since 1920 when President Truman signed a law granting them a 20 percent wage boost plus time-and-a-half for regular hours, whichever was higher.

The bulk of employees in the lower grades of the postal service, 25 percent for \$400 a year, whichever was higher. For regular employees in the so-called upper grades, the increase was not less than \$300, even if that amounts to a 10 percent increase.

The Post Office Department said that the increase would be a large number of the increase, which are estimated to aggregate about 150 million dollars a year.

The enactment of this law, following fast upon the heels of the new law granting 15 percent increase to other classified government employees, was considered a tribute to the effective operation of the newly organized Government Employees Council of the AFL, which represents a large number of federal workers who are organized into AFL unions.

## AFL Fights Bill to Help Employers Sneak Workers Out of Back Pages

Spoken for the AFL and for the Department of Labor, the bill is opposing a dangerous bill now pending in Congress which would place a new limitation on the right to strike. The measure was assailed as a "green light" to employers and wage chasers.

Under the bill, he said, such employees would be liable for a fine or pay except for the year prior to starting their strike. At present, the Wage-Hour Act has no time limit on such action.

The one-year period constitutes a major abrogation of employees' rights which Congress intended to assure. Walled declared. "Willful and flagrant violators are relieved of the major part of their liability."

"Furthermore, the proviso giving states freedom to reduce the limit will lead to competition among them to lower the protection as an attraction to low-wage employers, and thus undermine labor standards throughout the country," Walled added.

He said it was supported by many labor witnesses, including Lewis G. Brown, AFL legislative director, and officials of several affiliated unions, including the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America, the Workers and the Machine.

The bill, he said, would suggest a three-year limitation as a compromise, the union spokesmen insisted. They should be limited to five years and that states should not be permitted to undercut the federal law.

"One of the strongest attacks on the bill came from J. McCallie Walling, administrator of the Wage-Hour Act. In a vast number of cases, he said, violations of the act do not come to light for several years, other is the improvements which it will seek to accomplish. It will be the first step in the improvements which it will seek to accomplish. It will be the first step in the improvements which it will seek to accomplish."

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